

## **September 2006 Update**

### **Uravan Uranium Superfund Site Uravan, Colorado (5-Year Review Date: 9/28/05)**

**Brief Site History:** The Uravan site is located 90 miles to the southwest of Grand Junction in the western portion of Montrose County on Highway 141. From the 1940s to 1984, the plant operated as a uranium and vanadium-processing facility. These operations resulted in large volumes of contamination in air, soil and groundwater near the plant and the San Miguel River. Contaminants included radioactive raffinates, raffinate crystals and mill tailings containing uranium and radium. Other contaminants in the tailings and groundwater were lead, arsenic, cadmium and vanadium. The site was listed on the NPL in 1986.

**Cleanup Activities Completed:** The 1987 Consent Decree identified Umetco Mineral Corporation as the responsible party for cleanup at the site. The remedy includes:

- Capping and revegetating approximately 10 million cubic yards of radioactive tailings.
- Disposing of 530,000 cubic yards of radioactive raffinate crystals.
- Eliminating process ponds
- Pumping and treating contaminated groundwater.
- Securing 12 million yards of tailing waste along the San Miguel River.
- Dismantling 2 mills and placing all old building demolition materials in a secure area.
- Excavating and replanting areas with contaminated soils. Disposing of contaminated soils in a secure area.
- Dismantling and cleaning the Town of Uravan.

**Current Status:** With the exception of the Club Ranch Ponds, construction is complete. Remediation of the remaining Club Ranch Ponds will, by the fall of 2006, be completed. All that remains of the town of Uravan are two historic buildings. These two structures have been deleted from the National Priorities List. No further action has been taken since the last Five-Year Review. Umetco is currently conducting performance monitoring at the site. Wastes are being contained at the site, pollution of the San Miguel River is under control and there is no longer any residential exposure to radiation.

**Summary of Protectiveness:** Remedial activities are being conducted in general compliance with the Consent Decree. Based on available information, it appears that the remedy remains effective in protecting human health and the environment.

**Issues Impacting Protectiveness:** No issues were identified that affect the protectiveness of the remedy. For the status of all recommendations made, refer to the following summary table.

**Uravan Uranium Superfund Site  
Five-Year Review Update Table  
(Review Date: 9/28/05)**

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Follow-up Actions</b>	<b>Follow-up Actions (Status/Due Date)</b>	<b>Status of Follow- up Actions 12/05</b>	<b>Potentially Responsible Party</b>
1) Time-line schedule for implementation/ completion of RAP activities is not current.	Issue completion schedule acceptable to regulatory agencies, consistent with RAP requirements.	12/31/2005	Completed	Umetco Minerals Corp. and CDPHE
2) Presence of liquids in hillside collection sumps.	Engineering/technical assessment needed: closed/capped hillside collection system performance.	11/30/2005	Completed	Umetco Minerals Corp.
3) Portion of Club Mesa storm water management features show excessive erosion.	Provide systematic inspection and O&M plan for constructed and existing storm water management system component features.	11/30/2005	Addressed	Umetco Minerals Corp.
4) In-service Club Ranch Ponds have numerous liner failures.	Provide updated and revised inspection plan. Require the timely repair and/or decommissioning of subject evaporative CR Ponds.	10/31/2005	Done	Umetco Minerals Corp.
5) Inspection, sampling of wind-blown areas north and south of Uravan Site indicate the presence of airborne dispersed radioactive materials.	Provide for a wind-blown area-averaging assessment plan and implementation schedule which evaluates public health and environmental risk.	12/31/2005	Sampling and technical report complete 9/01/06; shows no risk. Land is available for unrestricted use.	Umetco Minerals Corp. and CDPHE
6) Timely management of stored PCB's	Verify proper transport, management and disposal of PCB's.	10/31/2005	Authorized PCB disposal into repository B—work complete.	Umetco Minerals Corp.

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Follow-up Actions</b>	<b>Follow-up Actions (Status/Due Date)</b>	<b>Status of Follow- up Actions 12/05</b>	<b>Potentially Responsible Party</b>
7) Radioactive materials beneath Colorado Highway 141.	Coordinate with the State of Colorado Department of Transportation for the timely removal and mitigation of Colorado Highway 141 radioactive materials, which is consistent with the Remedial Action Plan	12/31/2005	Colorado DOT is undergoing removal and disposal of radioactive materials under Highway 141. Construction completion expected April 2006.	Colorado DOT, CDPHE and Umetco Minerals Corp.
8) Land use management of Montrose County Roads Y-11 and E-22 is not consistent with requirements of the RAP and Consent Decree.	Provide formalized institutional control document with Montrose County which will ensure for the timely and proper land use control for future use, repair and maintenance of County Roads Y-11 and E-22.	12/31/2005	EPA and CDPHE continue to work with Montrose County. Project completion expected December 2006.	US EPA (8), CDPHE, Montrose County and Umetco Minerals Corp.